

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 1715 – HB 1523

April 23, 2014

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Revises multiple election laws, including but not limited to, the expansion of authority for a county election commission to refuse to appoint a person nominated when certain conditions exist; authorization for a qualified voter to correct a deficient but timely filed mail registration form, if the voter files a completed registration application or otherwise corrects the deficiency no later than five days prior to the next regularly scheduled November election; authorization for candidates required to be an attorney to run for election of any office, rather than a judicial office exclusively; a change to the nominating petition form; redefining “elderly voter” as any voter 60 years of age, rather than 65 years of age; authorization for a county election office to be closed on the Saturday following Good Friday; clarification that it is a Class D felony for any person to vote in the primary elections of more than one political party in an election, rather than on the same day; and requirement that the voter registration section of a driver license application to be processed as an in-person voter registration, rather than a voter registration by mail form.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Other Fiscal Impact – To the extent this bill is enacted on or before April 11, 2014, there will be a permissive decrease in local government expenditures estimated to be \$19,000 statewide occurring in FY13-14. To the extent this bill is enacted after April 11, 2014, any permissive decrease in local government expenditures for FY13-14 and FY14-15 is considered not significant. The next fiscal year in which a local government could realize a permissive decrease in expenditures would be FY21-22.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS (013502, 014242): Amendment 013502 deletes Section 7 of the original bill that authorizes county election offices to be closed on the Saturday following Good Friday. Amendment 014242 amends Section 11 of the original bill to change, from 90 days to 75 days, the proposed time frame for filing any resolutions, ordinances, or petitions with the county election commission regarding questions submitted to the people during certain specified elections.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

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Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- The fiscal impact estimated for the original bill was based on the possibility of county election offices being closed on the Saturday following Good Friday.
- Removing Section 7 of the original bill with amendment 013502, which provided authorization for county election offices to be closed on the Saturday following Good Friday, removes the potential permissive decrease in local government expenditures estimated to be \$19,000, which would have been contingent upon the date of passage. Therefore, the fiscal impact for the bill as amended is considered not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/rnc